GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:582
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2005
DOCTOR POPULATION RATIO
Danve Shri Raosaheb Patil;Ponnuswamy Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the medical facilities available both in Urban and Rural areas of the country are satisfactory;

(b) if so, the ratio of doctors with regard to the population ;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the doctor- population ratio ;

(d) the name of the country which has the highest doctor- population ratio;

(e) whether Government has any plan to develop alternative medical systems such as Homoeopathy ,Siddha,Unani, Ayurved etc.;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether the Government proposes to create employment opportunity for doctors and para-medics during the current year; and

(i) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c): As per the Medical Council of India, the allopathic doctor-population ratio at present works out to 1:1722. In addition, there are more than 6 lakhs medical practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy in the country. Taking all these numbers together, the doctor- population ratio comes to more than 128 doctors per lakh population (1 : 781). There are 241 Medical Colleges with annual intake of more than 27,000 students. Though there is no shortage in the aggregate number of doctors available, there is an imbalance in the availability of Doctors between urban and rural area.

(d) The availability of physicians per lakhs of population (as per WHO Report 1998) of some of the developed/developing countries is as under:

Country	No. of physicians per lakhs of population
Australia	240 (1998)
Belarus	443 (1998)
Belgium	395 (1998)
France	303 (1997)
Georgia	436 (1998)
Germany	350 (1998)
Greece	392 (1995)
Lithuania	395 (1998)
UK	164 (1993)
USA	279 (1995)

(e) to (g): Yes, sir. To improve the Alternative Medical System, the Department of AYUSH is implementing three Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Development of Institutions; Drugs Quality Control; and Hospitals & Dispensaries under which grants-in-aid is provided to States for the development of these systems in the country.

(h) to
(i): The National Health Policy inter-alia envisages increased access to the decentralized public health system by establishing new infrastructure in deficient areas and by upgrading the infrastructure in the existing institutions through increased investments. The Government has plans to increase expenditure in the health sector from 5.2% to 6.0% of GDP with its contribution increasing from 0.9% to 2.00% by 2010. The Common Minimum Programme also envisages increased public investment in the health sector. Increased investment in the health sector would normally result in creation of additional job opportunities for medical, para-medical as well as technical personnel.